



*Outback Grave Markers Inc*



# GRAVE TALES



## **This is what we're all about!**

**This is the lonely grave of Robert Kirkpatrick, who died 29 July 1909. His grave is about 20 miles south of Bronzewing, which, according to Suzie Tough, took some bush bashing to get to.**

**A prospector, explorer and pioneer, Kirkpatrick was aged 41 when he died of miner's lung. He was indeed an explorer of renown. Check out his story on the website. He's number 0681.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **GET WELL!**

This comes with very best wishes to Yvonne Coate, who has been battling with her health for some months. The good wishes, prayers and many kind thoughts of the Outback Grave family are with you, Yvonne, wishing you all the very best for a speedy return to good health.



# GRAVE TALES

## FROM THE EDITOR

It's been quite a while since OGM brought you all up to date with all its activities. But then, it's been a very strange year all round. Do hope you have survived the lockdown and the virus and have been able to get on with your lives in some form of normalcy.

Throughout the lockdown and social distancing, the wheels have kept turning within OGM. Research has continued, the website continues to expand, plaques are continuing to be made and, finally, a large number of them have been placed in situ. This issue will hopefully bring you up to date on some of those activities.

Send in your stories, your data and photographs to [secretary@outbackgraves.org.au](mailto:secretary@outbackgraves.org.au) for publication – and thank you all for your support.

Julie Aitken, Editor

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## From the Plaque Makers

By Trevor Tough

*As we go to print, Trevor is preparing for another epic journey to the Kimberleys, having only returned from the goldfields a week ago. So here are a few jottings he has made recently.*

**We have used the lockdown period to make lots of plaques which we will install as soon as we are allowed to travel again. Currently we have about 140 ready to install across the Goldfields, starting at Mt Palmer near Marvel Loch and at cemeteries at Bardoc, Linden, Murrin Murrin / Anaconda, Darlot and others. Also quite a few isolated graves of pioneers near Wilson's Patch, Eucalyptus, Box Soak and Linden.**

**All up we have now made more than 730 plaques and pretty well all of those stories have been loaded onto our website.**

**We have had a request from a local group in Kalgoorlie to help restore the cemetery at Kanowna, which is in very poor state. There are about 450 graves in there with only a dozen or so with headstones. This will be a very big job for us.**

**In the last few weeks we have also loaded some great articles about the various cemeteries and the towns they serviced. Don, one of our Committee people, has been writing up the stories of long forgotten cemeteries and towns, including photos and maps of the towns and with analyses by cause of death and the numbers of folk who died by their occupation and age. No-one else is doing this detailed work, so we are all very proud of this new part of our project. If any of you have relatives who lived or worked at these places, they will love this information.**

**The Eastern Districts 4WD Club have joined in to help us with our project and they are keen to use Outback Grave Markers as a purpose for making bush trips. So, we have given them their own patch to work, from Norseman to Esperance. That should keep them occupied for a few years! We have just made their first batch of 7 plaques for them to be installed on lonely graves around Wagin. This is excellent for us, because we haven't had the time or people to work on the South West yet.**

*[ED: Look elsewhere in this issue for more information on Don's cemeteries analysis, the Wagin trip and the Kanowna cemetery project. There is also an update on the recent Goldfields trip to install plaques.]*



**Bob's Tavern was right next door to a cemetery. One day in mid-winter, a drunk stumbled out of the tavern. Due to his drunk state, he wasn't careful where he was going and fell into a freshly dug grave.**

**"Help!" screamed the drunk at the top of his lungs. "I'm freezing!"**

**Before long, another drunk sauntered out of the tavern and made his way towards the first drunk's cries.**

**"I'm freezing!" screamed the first drunk again.**

**"Of course you are," scolded the second drunk. "You kicked off all the dirt they had covered you with!"**





# GRAVE TALES

## FROM THE CHAIR - by Alex Aitken

Welcome all to the semi-post COVID world of Outback Grave Markers.

During the imposed break from travel and other group activities OGM has had no formal meetings and as it happens, we are overdue for our AGM. So this will be in August. Notice will be sent to all supporters and members as soon as the date is settled.

The plaque-making activity has continued during the Lockdown and travel free period and when the brakes were taken off, Trevor and a crew travelled to the Goldfields to install plaques in various cemeteries and lonely graves. While on the road, the group met with the Shires of Laverton, Menzies, Leonora Wiluna and Sandstone as well as some Gold Miners who have expressed interest in OGM's work.

We have been encouraged to make application to Minara Community Foundation to seek some assistance in funding the purchase of a Laser engraver and Trevor has done the hard work on the application and the application is being submitted with the support of the Goldfields Shires.

With the up-coming AGM, please bear in mind that only members can vote, if you have not yet joined up please do so as soon as possible. A membership form is elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, please think about putting your hand up for any position as all offices will be declared vacant at the AGM and if you are keen to take on any role from Chairman to Committee person, don't be shy.

Interest in OGM activities is increasing with enquiries from interstate and locally so well done all on spreading the word.

Now we are able to have gatherings of numbers that make meetings workable, we can start to schedule regular Committee and General meetings so we can ensure all are aware of the current and up-coming activities that are planned.

Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM



*A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads: "Talking Dog for Sale". Intrigued, he walks in.*

*"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog.*

*"I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."*

*The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner:*

*"Why on Earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"*

*The owner says: "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"*



**Julie: I found an emotional story while researching a Mr Agostino DELLAQUA who died in Lawlers Hospital on 5 February 1909. Just before he died, he mentioned that he was one of 13 young men who came from Lombardy, Italy, and one by one, each of the other 12 had met with death. Agostino was now 40 and suffered a mining accident. He correctly foretold his demise the following morning, making the entire group of 13 young men extinct.**



## NEW FEATURES IN THE WEBSITE

Two new features have been added to the Outback Graves website over the past months. If you haven't had a browse around there for a while, check out these great new innovations.

Don Phillips has created a new section called "**CEMETERIES**". He has been collating information on the various cemeteries featured in the Outback Graves website. Click on "Discover", then "Cemeteries" to access some of the amazing information and analysis that Don has been working on. Under each cemetery heading, there is information on the first and last burial in that cemetery, the town itself, its discovery and early history, photographs and additional interesting information. In many cases, this comes complete with diagram and map of the cemetery and township. Causes of death, occupations and age at death have also been included in the analysis and provide fascinating reading.

The second feature, "**LIST OF GRAVES CURRENTLY MARKED**", was created as a result of a suggestion ... and a discussion. Lorraine then promptly set about creating an accessible list of all the entries in the website. They have been placed in a format where they may be viewed from an alphabetical selection.

Click on this link to the new feature: <http://outbackgraves.org/articles/161-burial-markers-a-c.html>

You can find it from the front page. Click on "Discover" (top right of front page), then click on "Cemeteries". The top line in this section says "**List of Graves Currently Marked**". Click on that ... and ... BINGO!!

This new feature will allow people who don't particularly know who they're looking for, to browse through the names until they find one that is familiar to them and they can then check on that name in the database.

The website is continuing to grow as we all find new ways to display the amazing information that is being collected.



## LOTTERYWEST APPLICATION

Trevor and Alex worked assiduously on an application for LotteryWest last year, finally achieving the first phase of the grant application by completing and forwarding the initial registration process. Then nothing. Upon investigation, it seems Lotterywest did not actually received the application and it was then lost to them entirely.

As it happens, with the onslaught of COVID-19, funds were diverted to the greater cause and OGM no longer fits any criteria for funding. 😞

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**APOLOGY:** OGM apologises to Mr Steve Hagan, the Manager at Mt House Station, for the error which appeared on Page 6 of Issue 3 of "Grave Tales", wrongly stating that he was at Mt Hart Station.

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# GRAVE TALES

## IT WASN'T A LUCKY STRIKE

By Faye Myers

Trevor has been speaking to Jenny Seaton, from 100.1 Fm Curtin Radio, each month for nearly a year, now, and Jenny is very keen to hear the stories of those who lie in the outback graves. One of the stories Trevor told recently is of Mr John Gilroy, who is buried at Bamboo Creek. Interestingly, the same story was recently sent to me from Faye Myers, of Bamboo Creek, who also found it fascinating. This is John Gilroy's story:

*When gold was first discovered in the Kimberley area in Western Australia in the 1880's, it brought a 'rush' of men to the new goldfields. As gold petered out, prospectors were continually on the lookout for new mining areas. Five men set out on foot, pushing their wheelbarrow and headed south.*

*They found gold about 50 km (as the crow flies) North-East of Marble Bar in 1895, and news quickly spread about the new find. Before long hopeful prospectors from near and far were coming to this new field called Bamboo Creek.*

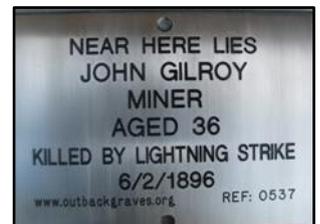
*Finding gold was far more important than accommodation and so many of the men slept in tents. Two such miners were John Gilroy and George Loy, with their tent and campsite on the Bulletin Block claim.*

*On the evening of the 6th of February, 1896, they had supper together in their tent. After supper, Gilroy remained at the camp and made himself a cuppa. Even though it was a stormy night, George Loy left to assist some fellow miners out of a shaft in which they were working. A few minutes after leaving, there was a heavy thunderclap and a vivid flash of lightning.*

*When Loy returned to the tent, he found Gilroy on the ground, face upwards, quite dead. The pole of the tent was split and a large mirror, which was intact when Loy left, was smashed to atoms and scattered about the place. There were two red marks on the deceased's right side, one the size of a penny-piece and the other smaller. Death was instantaneous.*

*Gilroy's dog was also found dead in the tent.*

*John Gilroy, the son of Susan (nee White) and Peter Gilroy, was born in Donegal, Ireland. He was 36 years of age when he died at Bamboo Creek on 6 Feb 1896 at the Bulletin Block claim. No inquest was held.*



*There is an Outback Grave marker for John Gilroy at the Bamboo Creek cemetery.*



**Going back eight generations, most people will have a whopping 256 ancestors. This is called an "outbred" family tree. Charles Habsburg, however, known as Charles II of Spain (1661-1700), was so inbred he had only 29 ancestors, and he suffered from great physical disabilities as a result.**



**Get well wishes and prayers are also extended to Celeste Waghorn (relative of James McHugh) who has been on the sick list for some time. Wishing you a speedy recovery and a return to good health.**



## APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

Last year, OGM submitted an entry in the Woolworths Community Group of the Year Award, which allocates funding for various community groups. OGM was not among the winning groups who benefitted from the funding allocations, although a dinner to celebrate the Awards was held on Friday 18 October, with many of the nominated groups attending and strutting their stuff. Alex and Julie attended on behalf of OGM and the nature of the work being carried out by OGM was met with high accolades.

This year, OGM has again been invited to submit an application. It is proposed to turn up in force at the celebratory dinner, in yet another effort to lift the profile of the group.

In addition, Trevor initiated an application for a grant from the Minara Community Foundation to partly fund the purchase of a laser engraving machine at a total cost of \$95,000, including a stock of anodised aluminium plates.

One of their criteria is to demonstrate community support for the OGM project and the purchase of this equipment. Effort has been made to enlist that support from the entire Outback Graves community by way of a supporting letter. Letters have been received from the Eastern Goldfields shires and others and will be included with the submission.



*A man came home one day to find his wife wilding jumping around on her bed, throwing the pillows around and generally whooping it up. Her husband watches her for a while, then asks:*

*“Do you have any idea how ridiculous you look? What’s the matter with you?”*

*The woman continues to bounce on the bed and says: “I don’t care what you think. I just came from having a mammogram and the doctor says that not only am I healthy, but I have the breasts of an 18-year-old.”*

*The husband replies: “What did he say about your 42-year-old arse?”*

*“Your name never came up,” she replied.*



## MEMBERSHIP OF OUTBACK GRAVE MARKERS INC.

At the Special General Meeting of OGM on 16 February this year, the following motion was accepted by the meeting:

**“That membership fees be \$5 per individual and \$10 per family.”**

As a result, membership of OGM has been steadily increasing in numbers. If you are interested in joining and supporting this amazing venture to identify and mark the lonely and unmarked graves of this state, your membership would be most welcome. Simply complete the form on Page 8 of this issue and forward to [secretary@outbackgraves.org](mailto:secretary@outbackgraves.org).

If you are planning to attend the AGM, which will be coming up on Saturday 5 September, you will need to be a member in order to vote. This is a requirement under the Constitution.



Outback Grave Markers Inc



# GRAVE TALES

## Outback Grave Markers Inc.

ABN 80406126165

Membership Form

From 1 July to 30 June (each year)

### Annual Membership

Ordinary	\$5.50 (including GST)
Family	\$11.00 (including GST)
Donation	\$ <input type="text"/>
Shirts \$38.50 each Ladies – Blue _____ Purple _____	\$ <input type="text"/>
Shirts \$38.50 each Mens - Dress Blue _____ Drill Orange _____	\$ <input type="text"/>
TOTAL	\$ <input type="text"/>

I wish to apply for / renew membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive emails about forthcoming meetings or events? YES  NO

**Electronic direct funds transfer**, our details are:

Account Name Outback Grave Markers Inc.

BSB Number 633-000

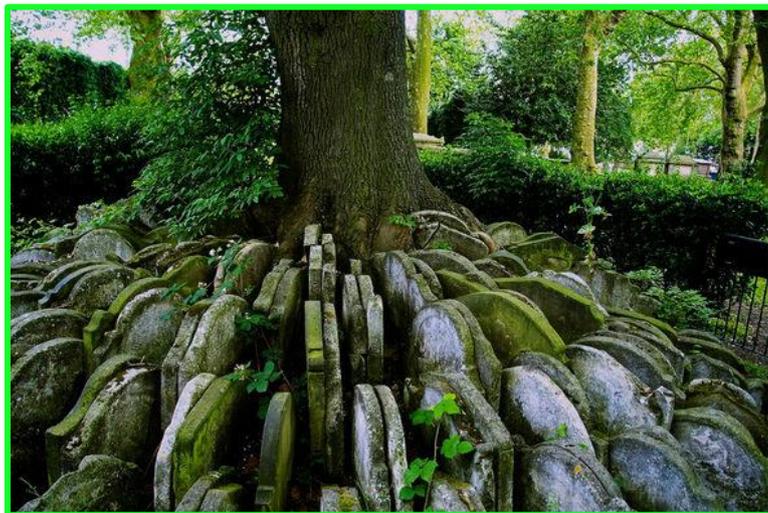
Account Number 165252149

In the reference section, please use your initial and surname as well as 'subs' or 'donation' to ensure that your payment can be identified.

We will still need your completed form for our records, so please return it either by post or as an attachment to an email to [secretary@outbackgraves.org](mailto:secretary@outbackgraves.org)



## The Hardy Tree



### St. Pancras Old Church, London, England

This churchyard is surrounded by hundreds of gravestones placed there by author Thomas Hardy.

INSIDE AN ANCIENT LONDON CHURCHYARD, an ash tree is encircled with hundreds of overlapping gravestones placed there by classic novelist Thomas Hardy.

The cemetery alongside London's St. Pancras Old Church, which is considered by many to be one of England's oldest places of Christian worship, is the site of a number of fascinating stories—for one, Mary Shelley and Percy Bysshe Shelley planned their elopement there while visiting Mary's mother's grave. But perhaps one of its most striking oddities is the Hardy Tree, an ash tree surrounded by hundreds of weathered gravestones, layered practically on top of one another. How did they come to be arranged in this way?

In the mid-1860s, Britain's rail system was experiencing immense growth, and London was outgrowing its existing lines. In order to accommodate the growing population of commuters, an expansion was planned—directly affecting the graveyard at St. Pancras.

In order to make way for the new train line, an architecture firm was contracted to perform the sensitive task of exhuming the remains and reburying them at another site. In the tradition of dumping rather unpleasant work on those lowest on the totem pole, the job was promptly assigned to their young employee, Thomas Hardy, who in the following decades would publish many classic novels such as *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

After the essential duty was completed, there remained hundreds of headstones, along with the question of what to do with them. Hardy's solution was to place them in a circular pattern around an ash tree in the churchyard in a spot that would not be disturbed by the railway. One can only speculate as to how he arrived at this decision, but over the years the tree has absorbed many of the headstones, life and death melding into one image of grotesque beauty, preserved for centuries.

St. Pancras Gardens was also used as a photoshoot for The Beatles's "White Album" in 1968.

*A man is walking in a graveyard when he hears the Third Symphony played backward. When it's over, the Second Symphony starts playing, also backward, and then the First. "What's going on?" he asks a cemetery worker.*

*"It's Beethoven," says the worker. "He's decomposing."*



## THE GOLDFIELDS PLAQUES

Last February, Trevor wrote that over the next week or two he would complete making all the plaques for the cemeteries in the Leonora District that were to be covered in the trip at the end of April.

They started with 54 plaques - "Plus there are several odd bush graves we are trying to find which will bring us closer to 60 for the trip." But the number grew exponentially by the time they left in June. Travelling on this trip were Trevor & Susie Tough, Blue and Mary Mullumby, Glennis McDonald, Adrian Molloy, Don Phillips, Colin Riley and Ron Dhu from Eastern Suburbs 4WD and Kerry Davies.

**That trip has now been completed most successfully and, thanks to Suzie Tough, the following images show a little of the endeavour that was made by this OGM group.**

The first images are at Leonora Old Airport Cemetery, where 27 plaques were placed with an Airport



Security escort. It is not accessible – but looks great.

The group enjoyed a lovely evening hosted by the Shire of Leonora but reported they were unable to find Pendergast grave, although they were able to place plaques at Mt Palmer, Linden, Murrin Murrin and a couple of other lonely graves: Kachy, Ryan and Hook.

... continued next page

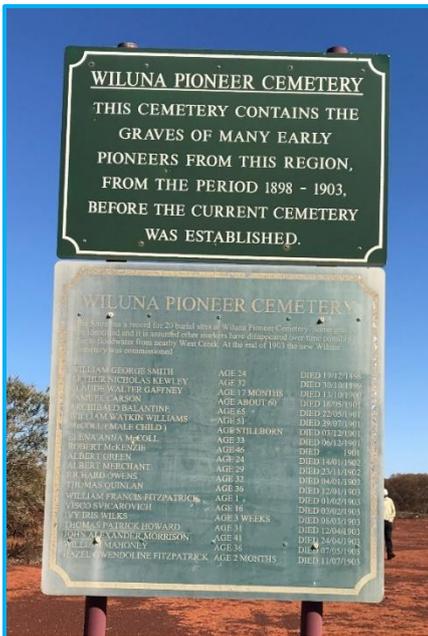


GRAVE TALES

THE GOLDFIELDS PLAQUES - continued



Next was Kathleen Valley, where everyone admired the amazing sculpture on the headstone cross on the grave of Edward Coffey.



The group scrubbed up for a meeting with the Shire of Wiluna and then headed out to the Wiluna Pioneer Cemetery where some 20 graves were placed between 1898 and 1903.



The lonely grave of Kirkpatrick, (front cover) took some bush bashing to find at Bronzewing.



Then a little grave that touched the heart at Youanmi cemetery, about 60 kms south west of Sandstone. The child was little Nancy Rogers, who died in November 1939. The Youanmi cemetery has about

59 graves in it.



This is the start of Lawlers. 10 plaques in of a total of 169. The lonely grave is the one of Punton about 3-4 kms East of Lawlers, out in the middle of nowhere. Next morning, after camping for the night, Trevor was walking the dogs and saw the cross up on the skyline.



On this trip, the OGM group also went to Kurralong, Wilson's Patch and Darlot. Trevor and Suzie have now headed up to the Kimberleys ...



## COOLGARDIE PIONEER CEMETERY

In 2019, Alex and Julie were invited to make a presentation to the Shire of Coolgardie. The entire Council became enthusiastic when they learned of a reasonably economical but impressive method of marking the unmarked graves in their cemeteries. With over 3600 graves in the main Coolgardie Cemetery, it was suggested that the Pioneer Cemetery which has already been installed with a new white picket fence surrounding the mounds of just under 50 souls, should be the first to feature OGM plaques. Only two gravestones exist and a communal memorial has been erected to honour the collective number. Once again, the identity of each grave is not known.



The go-ahead has now been received and research has begun to identify the names of those buried in the Pioneer Cemetery at a time when registration was still held at Southern Cross.



*"Lady with the Ring" is a story from European folklore.*

*The story is that a woman was buried or entombed while wearing a valuable ring. Shortly after the burial, a grave robber (often a corrupt sexton) disinterred the body with the intent of stealing the ring. The robber was unable to slide the ring off the woman's finger, so he prepared to cut off the finger with a knife. However, upon making the initial incision, the woman awoke, surprising the grave robber. The woman had not been dead at all but had been the victim of premature burial.*



## THE STORY OF MARY CONSTANCE STEWART, A.L.C.M.

Mary Constance Stewart was born in 1894 in East Melbourne, Victoria. She had lived in Victoria for 7 years before moving to WA and was known as Mary Constance Stewart Holohan after her mother remarried.

This talented young lady had a very successful career ahead of her in her musical studies — winning the cap and gown at the Geraldton Convent School the previous Christmas. She had gained the musical qualification of A.L.C.M., which gave her a diploma in music performance and teaching as an Associate from the London College of Music, a school within the University of West London. This Associate qualification allowed the young lady to append the qualification letters, A.L.C.M. after her name.

The late Miss Holohan had been suffering for some time from appendicitis and it became necessary to operate. Dr Cameron, of Leonora, proceeded by motor car to Lawlers and performed the operation with Dr Moloney but the patient proved to be in too low a condition for medical skill to save her life. Sadly, her skills were lost to the world.

**Mary Constance died on 24 October 1912, aged just 18 years. She is buried in Plot 36, Section A, Roman Catholic section of the Lawlers Cemetery. Her story will be published on the website on the completion of her plaque.**





## PROPOSED PROJECTS

### The West Australian

Monday 15 June, 2020, ran the following article in the Can You Help? feature:

**“KANOWNA CEMETERY:** A community group has been formed to preserve and restore the Kanowna Cemetery which is about 12kms to the east of Kalgoorlie and just before you get to the historic town of Kanowna. Kanowna used to be a thriving town of about 12,500 people.

There is a small pioneer cemetery on the far side of the town but the one in the most need of care is the one on the Yarri Road. Unfortunately, as the cemetery can be seen from the main road and is quite close to Kalgoorlie, the human element in its present state is evident in the rubbish and the damage to the remaining headstones.

Also, recently one of the side fences has fallen down and the cattle have gained entry. The whole area is overgrown with vegetation and it is hard to even reach some of the graves. Combined with pollution, the whole “God’s Acre” is in a very poor state.

A three-stage plan has been established:

One, clear the whole area of rubbish to erect a secure fence around it. To clear some of the vegetation so the graves can be seen. To have the area re-surveyed;

Two, engage the local monumental mason to professionally repair, as much as possible, the remaining headstones; and

Three, erect a new sign giving the history of the area and the plan of the cemetery.

The group, Outback Graves, will be engaged to erect a small plaque for each person who does not have a memorial and an online database will be available with as much biographical detail as can be found about each and every person buried there. It is estimated there are about 450 burials. However, there is no existing burial plan. Anyone who has a descendant in this cemetery is asked to respond. A list of names currently known can be viewed online. Contact: Moya Sharp Outback Family History, 43 Ward Street, Lamington 6430. Email: [research@outbackfamilyhistory.com.au](mailto:research@outbackfamilyhistory.com.au), website: <https://bit.ly/3gFNthD>.”

The second project which Trevor is keen to follow up is the following:

**CAMDEN HARBOUR :** *Samille Mitchell, the lady who did the ABC article on OGM at Gullewa and also the Outback Magazine article, is very keen to do a full program on the Camden Harbour graves on Sheep Island – believed to be about 14. An amazing piece of Western Australian history, this is a daunting project, as it will involve probably a week trip by boat from Broome.*



*Looking at around June 2021, Trevor has a mate in Broome with a large boat who is keen to help. But OGM will probably need to raise \$10,000 to \$15,000 to cover the costs - more if there is a need to fly to Broome and return. Samille is looking at asking ABC for funding, or OGM might have to make the program and then find a buyer. OGM should also investigate special funding for this from mining companies and the like. Trevor believes that if a commercial TV outfit tried to make this program, it would cost them \$200,000 and they probably wouldn't get it right. It is his theory that the overriding story is about OGM making this epic effort to mark and preserve WA history!!*







# GRAVE TALES



## RESEARCH

[ED- Back in March, before ‘rain stopped play’ (!), Glennis offered the following notes on the research work she does. Since then, by taking advantage of the lockdown, a considerable amount of more work has been completed by researchers.]

I'd like to thank all those extra folk who've shared information, collated and helped us to get the facts together for our plaques.

When I need help Moya Sharp of Outback Family History, with her web site and her knowledge and enthusiasm has made a huge difference to my day-to-day encounters, it's made it fun.

I've now emailed BDM WA about 25 times with queries and discrepancies in their entries. They have responded well, and have made changes, especially if I can give them enough information to prove the change. Some they haven't changed mainly as spelling of some words can differ, so they take what has been received – i.e. Davis/Davies.

Recently I emailed the Metropolitan Cemetery Board – who responded very quickly. Also the State Record Office, who changed Kuralpe to Kurnalpi.

Also the help from the Shires. Kat Dubberley who copied the burial records for Lawlers, has been a huge help. This has given us much more information than we've previously had to hand.

Work progresses, with the 169 for Lawlers researched and checked, just three queries to sort out now. Julie has entered 61 of these into the web site already.

Work has started on the list Mark Bogaers has compiled for the Toyota Land Cruiser Club's proposed sojourn into the Bush in September. There are some 200 entries, with a few plaques already made.

For the Leonora Shire we still have about 130 to be researched, with some of the 'unknown' entries posing a challenge to the old grey cells.

Thank you all, Glennis



## CAUSE OF DEATH

Ronald Bertram Alfred McKEOWN, died 6 August 1898, aged 6 months, at Pinyalling. (Ref: #224)

Margaret Florence LUCK, died 17 April 1900, aged 8 months, at Mt Ida. (Ref: #753)

Harry James POLLARD died 29 Dec 1902, aged 9 months, at Malcolm. (Ref: #505)

Each of these children died of teething related causes.



Ann JENNINGS died on 15 January 1870 at Spring Mill Yard, Yorkshire, England. Cause of death was dentition. In other words, teething. In the Annual Report of the UK Registrar General, covering the 1870 statistics, the year of Ann's death, 4,183 deaths registered in England had teething as the cause.

Teething coincides with high temperatures which lead to a number of afflictions and display a variety of symptoms including convulsions, diarrhoea, bronchitis, croup, vomiting, neck abscesses, insanity and meningitis.

Years ago, teething treatments could in themselves prove fatal. Even today there are stories of homeopathic teething tablets causing death. Back in the 19th century treatments ranged from dangerous to downright barbaric, with some treatments a combination of the two. So who knows if these children really did die as a result of teething. Was it actually a case of misdiagnosis, or even a teething remedy gone wrong? We will never know. So these little children are just another statistic, amongst thousands of others, whose death was attributed to dentition.





## A LOT HAS BEEN HAPPENING ... by Trevor Tough

**Outback Magazine** published an article a couple of months ago on our Outback Grave Markers project. Distributed around Australia, it has caused great interest.

**It prompted The Weekly Times** in Melbourne to do an interview and they, too planned an article on OGM.

**It also caused an old bloke** called Greg Taylor in northern NSW to phone me with a great story. He has a station near Tipooorra with a gate known as “Dead Man’s Gate” and he has asked us to help find out some more details.

Apparently about 100 years ago a mail contractor and Cobb & Co driver called Billy Gilby stopped to open this gate one night and noticed an awful smell. On looking around he found two dead swagmen, one leaning against each gate post and their dogs were also dead. I suppose they had perished there.

He wants me to make a plaque for him to place at the gate for these old fellers. He has asked the NSW Police to look in their records to find the names of the swagmen, but no help was there. Billy Gilby’s great grandsons still own properties in the area, so we will keep working on it for him.

So far we have found that Billy Gilby was born in 1886, so we think the incident happened around 1910. We are now receiving many requests like this for help.

Further interest in the activities of OGM continues to pour in. Trevor also received this one:  
*“My name is Ken Hogan. I am a retired archaeologist and I live in Lake Macquarie NSW. Near Newcastle. Your project sounds fascinating and I would like to get involved. I have some experience with historical graves and I love going outback. How can I get involved on the east coast?”*

**T**he Capuchin Catacombs are burial catacombs in Palermo, in Sicily. Today they provide a somewhat macabre tourist attraction as well as an extraordinary historical record.

The catacombs were officially closed in 1880. One of the very last to be interred was Rosalia Lombardo, shown at right, then nearly two years old, whose body is still remarkably intact, preserved with an embalming procedure. Born in 1918, Rosalia died in 1920. She is one of the most perfectly preserved bodies in the world. She looks as if she is only sleeping! This crypt shows everyday people in comfortable and sometimes very curious gruesome-like settings.

The halls of the Catacomb are divided into categories: men, women, virgins, children, priests, monks and professionals. Some bodies are better preserved than others. Some are set in poses, for example, two children are sitting together in a rocking chair. The coffins were accessible to the families of the deceased so that on certain days the family could hold their hands and they could “join” their family in prayer.





## IN MEMORY OF ESAU WANADJI ... by Trevor Tough

Leonora Shire contacted us, saying they had received a request from a lady in Carnarvon who wanted to put a plaque on her father's grave in Leonora.

They asked if we could help. So I phoned Penny in Carnarvon to find out just what she wanted. She is a lovely old lady, aged about 76 and apparently her father died when she was only about 9 years old.

Her father's name was Esau Wanadji and he had died in Leonora from a heart attack aged only 34, on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1963. Penny told me as much as she knows about him.

Esau Wanadji was born at Moore River Native Settlement (Mogumber). As a young man he went out to work but lived with his cousins Topsy and Billy Shaw. When Penny was born, Topsy and Billy became her foster parents.

Penny was born at Moore River / Mogumber. "Growing up there was "OK". I remember the missionaries would send a red truck to Moore river to bring the families to Mogumber for rations every 3 weeks to a month. We would hear the trucks coming and be happy for our family, my Dad Esau and my foster parents Topsy and Billy Shaw.

One day with my Dad we went down to the veggie patch to show him. Next, I remember the big bell ringing - That is the time for the parents to line up to get their ration box - potatoes, onions, milk, sugar, flour, tinned meat, fruit, corned beef, rice, spaghetti and bits and pieces from the welfare man.

Not forgetting half a packet of smokes. I think it was Drum or Log Cabin and cigarette papers.

Esau joined the boxing team. They had a big truck. He used to come to New Norcia to visit me when I was at school there. He had to pay the nuns 1 Pound for me to go to the Royal Show for a week. He was with Stuart's Boxing Troop.

Esau won the Golden Gloves and belt for boxing. Later on I heard he had passed away in Leonora. He was always fighting and I am told he was a lady's man.

Moore River was the slave house. They would send you to New Norcia for school. We had to work 6 days a week there, doing ours and the nun's washing and washing school uniforms for the boy's school. Light the boiler. I don't say bad things because you can't bite the hand that fed you.



Growing up we never had a house or cupboards, so we put everything on the ground. We had a ration order, but it would run out and we would have to try to get some money doing jobs.

Now, living in a 2-bedroom house I still put everything on the floor. My grandson can't understand and gets angry.

Esau also had a son Gerald Walker, who died of meningitis when only 12 months old."

[ED: George Stewart ran the Stewart Boxing Troupe which toured around the country towns and featured some of WA's most renowned Noongar fighters. George Stewart was one of the toughest men around at the time. He was no shrinking violet and not one to take a backward step, which testifies to the tough life that Esau must have led in the Boxing Troupe.]

... continued on Page 18

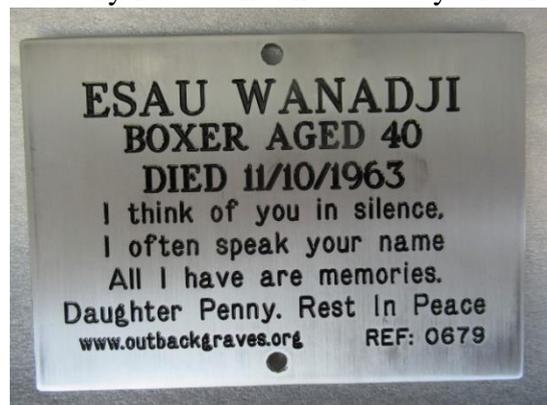


# GRAVE TALES

**Trevor, 5 June 2020:** We made the plaque for her and I promised we would place it on his grave for her. This morning I phoned her to say that we will be placing the plaque on Esau's grave on Saturday 20th June. One of her grandsons answered and told me the sad news that Penny passed away last week. She was 76 years old and had been born and brought up on Moore River Native Settlement (Mogumba).

Penny was a lovely lady and I am so glad that we made the plaque for her and sent a photo before she died. I am also glad I wrote down some of her story as she told it to me over the phone. She was easy to talk with and very open and friendly.

The last time we spoke, she wanted to chat and then asked me if I was a blackfeller. She was very impressed when I answered "No, I am a wujella" (white feller.)



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## **OGM'S SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER**

Tracker has just got back a few days ago from a trip to the Flinders & Gammon Ranges (Arkaroola).

He has made contact with the South Australian Genealogy Society which runs the SA BDM website and joined as a member – but, of course, there are now restricted opening hours in force. He is keen to meet with them to find out what information they have on lonely graves in South Australia.



Alex recently received an email which he has now forwarded to Tracker, from a lady in South Australia who is seeking information regarding a lonely grave, So interest is starting to pick up.

Tracker says: "Say Hi to everyone!"

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## **QUEENSLAND ALSO INTERESTED IN FORMING A BRANCH OF OGM**

In mid-March, Trevor was contacted by a lady who is a member of the Local Family History Group in Roma, Western Queensland, with an avid interest in lonely graves.

Jane has been involved in researching some 80 plus lonely graves in Queensland and would love to share the stories of these lonely graves through the OGM website. Jane and Trevor continue to discuss the possibility of Jane setting up a Queensland branch of OGM.

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## THE CONVOLUTED STORY OF HENRY LOOKE

### Firstly, the facts:

1. Hermanus Lambertus LOOKE, born 12 May 1841, Rotterdam, Holland, came out with parents on "Esmerelda" 14 October 1854.
2. He married Sarah Ann ANDERSON – she was born KENNEDY and had previously married James ANDERSON and had 5 children in Toodyay. The eldest of these children was Emma Jane, born in Toodyay 1859. (No marriage registration has been found for this couple.)
3. Henry LOOKE married Sarah Ann KENNEDY 1870. They had three children:
  - a. Elizabeth, born 1870
  - b. Mary Jane, born 1873, died 1873, aged 26 days
  - c. Unnamed Female, born 1874, died 1874, aged 1 day
4. Sarah LOOKE died 1875, aged 42 years
5. Sarah's eldest child, Emma Jane, had a child in 1876 : William Augustus BROWNING (father: Alfred), died aged 14 days
6. Henry LOOKE married Emma Jane ANDERSON, 19 January 1877. They had 11 children:
  - a. Maria Louisa, born 1877
  - b. Amy Edith, born 1879
  - c. Mabel Constance, 1880
  - d. Henry Augustus, 1882
  - e. Petronella, 1884
  - f. Emma Bertha, 1887
  - g. Mary Edith, 1889
  - h. Frances Teresa, 1891
  - i. Minnie Martha, 1893
  - j. Sarah Josephine, 1895
  - k. Irwin Henry, 1897



### The Story:

*According to Marlene Counsel, the wife of a descendant, the image showing skeletal remains is of Hermanus Lambertus LOOKE, alias Herman Henry LOOKE, who disappeared with his son, Henry Augustus LOOKE, known as Gus. Ms Counsel writes "... that they were apparently selling grog and merchandise about Lake Darlot. He married his first wife, Sarah Ann ANDERSON, nee KENNEDY and when she died, her oldest daughter, Emma Jane, became pregnant to him and they later married".*

*According to a newspaper report, the remains that were discovered between Darlot and Mount Sir Samuel were definitely proved to be those of Henry Looke (the articles found among the bones having been identified by his widow at Dongara). However, it was not known what became of the man's son, a youth of about 15, who was known to have been with him when Looke was last seen.*

*A man named Thomas Townsend, of Mount Sir Samuel, informed the Lawlers police that he knew Henry Looke was a teamster and carried grog and merchandise about the fields. He said Looke left Lawlers for Lake Darlot some time in 1897 with a waggon and two horses. His intention, according to Townsend's belief, was to sell his turn-out as soon as he could get a decent offer and go prospecting.*



# GRAVE TALES

## HENRY LOOKE ... continued

*Enquiries made by a policeman stationed on the East Murchison revealed: "I met Looke and his son about two years ago some 26 miles east of Lawlers. They had with them five horses in very poor condition, a covered wagonette and a buggy.*

*Looke and I had some, conversation, and he told me that he was going prospecting between there and Lake Way. He admitted he did not know the country well, but was confident he could find his way, and expected to be able to get along on surface water. The country was very dry, but there had been a slight thunderstorm a week or two earlier. I cautioned him to be careful and advised him where he could find water at the 25 -mile Granites. I then left him, and I never heard of anyone seeing him since."*

*It was alleged that Looke's son returned to Magnet with the horses but no report was made of the death of his father and no further report was made of the son.*



*An office executive was interviewing a young man for an assistant position and wanted to find out a little about his personality.*

*"If you could have a conversation with anyone, alive or dead, who would it be?" the manager asked. The young man thought about it for a while and finally responded: "I'd have to say the living one".*



## PLAQUES FOR THE WAGIN AREA

Lorraine, Alex and Julie travelled to Wagin recently to assist the members of the Eastern Districts 4WD Club to locate the gravesites for 7 plaques that have been made to be placed in that area.

The trio met up with the group at the home of one of their members, Mike, and after morning tea and a brief chat by Lorraine, the convoy set out for Lime Lake - a distance of about 17 kms - to find the resting place of the Brock child. The group nominated Alex to lead the convoy. He was guided by his navigator in the rear seat - who shall remain nameless - and some 45 kilometres later, the group arrived at Lime Lake. After some considerable bush-walking, a local young man named Ben stopped his motor bike to offer his assistance. Over 5 kilometres later, and with Ben in consultation with his mum and other neighbours, it was decided the child was not buried in the Lime Lake reserve!

Ben's mum has since joined the group and has come up with some very sound suggestions as to where the little Brock child and the remaining 6 lonely graves are most likely to be found.

This calls for another trip to Wagin! This time, with a more definite plan.



**Why is it annoying to eat next to basketball players? They dribble all the time.**

**What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack? The best of thymes, the worst of thymes.**





# GRAVE TALES

## Monumental Cemetery in Genoa, Italy

While other cemeteries of its day were built to solve problems – such as overcrowded churchyards or an increase in deaths after an epidemic – Monumental Cemetery was constructed for beauty.



And since its beginnings in 1886, this cemetery has indeed often been noted as being one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the world. This is due in large part to

Monumental Cemetery's amazing statues. It is filled with one-of-a-kind marble sculptures that would rival those in any world-class art museum.

In fact, many wealthy Italians commissioned their hand-carved statues years before they died so they would have a chance to enjoy them before they passed away.

Bring your walking shoes if you visit this Staglieno cemetery. There are more than 117,000 gravesites spanning 250 acres!



**Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?**

**There's no menu. You get what you deserve.**



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